

By:	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee, 19 March 2013
Subject	Decision No. 12/02015 - Proposed expansion of Langton Green Primary School, Tunbridge Wells
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report informs members of the results of the Public Consultation
Recommendations:	The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills on the decision to issue a public notice to expand Langton Green Primary School.

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Tunbridge Wells district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan 2012 - 2017 indicates a need to commission additional primary capacity in the Langton Green planning area.

1.2 On 12 September 2012 the Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member of Education, Learning & Skills that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Langton Green Primary School.

1.3 This report sets out the results of the public consultation which took place between Monday 19 November 2012 and Monday 14 January 2013. A public meeting was held on 20 November 2012.

## **2. The Proposal**

2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Langton Green Primary School by 30 reception year places taking their PAN to 60 (2FE) for the September 2013 intake. Successive reception year intakes will offer 60 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 420 pupils.

## **3. Bold Steps and the Kent Commissioning Plan**

3.1 This proposal will help to secure our ambition "to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places" as set out in 'Bold Steps for Kent'.

3.2 The Tunbridge Wells section of the Kent Commissioning Plan indicates a need to commission additional primary capacity in the Langton Green planning area.

## **4. Outcomes of the Public Consultation**

4.1 The majority of respondents were in favour of the proposal. The concerns raised at the public meeting are explored in paragraph 5.2 below.

4.2 A summary of the comments received during the consultation period are given at appendix 1.

4.3 A summary of the questions, comments and responses made during the meeting are given at appendix 2.

## **5. Views**

### **5.1 Local Member**

The Local Member is Mr John Davies. Mr Davies said:

*John Davies is supportive of the increase in the school's PAN from 30 to 60 to ensure that those parents who wish their children to attend Langton Green Primary School can do so and share the excellent education provided by a dedicated team of teaching professionals and support staff led by an outstanding Headteacher and Board of Governors. However until the access and traffic implications are addressed he cannot fully support the proposal as these were not in his view properly addressed in the feasibility study. Mr Davies as the local Member will be responding to any Planning Application that is put forward and will not participate in the decision process of any application as he is a Member of the Planning Applications Committee and Chairman of the Committee and a Governor of the school.*

5.2 The following views were raised in the public consultation meeting:

*(i) Concern over the potential for a dilution in the small school ethos or standards at the school.*

There were several comments and returns (from residents and parents) that expressed concern that the 'village' aspect of the school would be diluted due to the widening of the area from which the school draws in pupils.

The school has an Ofsted grade of outstanding and the head teacher, Mrs Judith Lees made it clear that neither performance standards nor ethos were at risk. Mrs Lees offered a very firm commitment to parents at the meeting that she believed that the enlargement was a positive move and would benefit the school and local community.

*(ii) Concern over the lack of places available in the school for September 2013.*

According to the early information available to the school, it is estimated that out of 30 available places at the school, 27 of these will be offered as sibling link places, leaving only 3 places available. This would mean that some local children, even some living very close to the school, will not be able to get a place.

For September 2013, there have been a significant number of responders who have children who would like to go to Langton Green Primary School. These potential parents indicate a unanimous and enthusiastic support for the proposal.

*(iii) Concern over the potential for an increase in traffic or local parking issues.*

It is acknowledged that Lampington Row is a narrow residential road and that even a modest increase in traffic might create issues for residents at drop off and pick up times.

Alternative solutions need to be considered as part of any work at the site and Property Group are factoring this in to their feasibility studies. One possible solution would be to use parish/village car parking, but it is understood that improvements would be required.

MLM Consulting Engineers were commissioned by Kent County Council to provide a Transport Assessment (TA) associated with a proposal to extend the existing Langton Green Primary School. The report is available as a public document and it concludes:

"Overall it has been demonstrated that with the access improvements to the school and the full use of the village hall car park there are no transport or highways reasons to prevent the extension of the current 1 form entry school to a 2 form entry school."

*(iv) Concerns over staff parking.*

There is limited capacity on the site and an increase in car parking spaces is an issue that will need to be considered in any work done at the school.

*(v) Concerns about the need for additional places that would require Langton Green to expand.*

There are concerns that Langton Green Primary School is being expanded purely to ameliorate the capacity issues in central Tunbridge Wells. The AEO does not feel that this is the case as Langton Green is a village community, separate from Tunbridge Wells.

Langton Green planning area covers an area beyond the confines of the village itself. There are single dwellings and hamlets outwith the village boundaries, for who Langton Green is the nearest school. Forecasts clearly indicate a significant and sustained increase of school age children in the Langton Green planning area.

### 5.3 Area Education Officer

The AEO fully supports this proposal and, having considered other commissioning options, is of the belief that this enlargement is not only necessary, but the most cost-effective and sustainable solution to increased demand in the immediate area.

### 5.4 Governing Body

The Governing Body of Langton Green Primary School are supportive of the proposal.

### 5.5 Headteacher

The head teacher of the school is supportive.

### 5.6 Parents

Of the parents that responded, there is a small majority opposed to the proposal.

### 5.7 Pupils

The majority of pupils of the school are supportive of the proposal.

## 6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. No comments were received and no changes needed to be made to the Equality Impact Assessment following the consultation period.

## 7. Financial Implications

7.1 Capital funding is required to complete this expansion. The funding available comes from an annual Government allocation, topped up, where eligible, with Developer contributions. The estimated cost for 2013-14 on this expansion is £85,000. This has been included within the 2013-14 capital programme although we still await confirmation from the DfE of our 'basic need' capital allocations for 2013/15

## 8. Recommendations

8.1 The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills on the decision to issue a public notice to expand Langton Green Primary School

## **9. Background Documents**

Langton Green Primary School consultation document

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/LangtonGreen/consultationHome>

Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/your\\_council/priorities,\\_policies\\_and\\_plans/priorities\\_and\\_plans/bold\\_steps\\_for\\_kent.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/priorities,_policies_and_plans/priorities_and_plans/bold_steps_for_kent.aspx)

Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017

[https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-](https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent%202012-17%20FINAL%20(Sept-2012).pdf)

[plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent%202012-17%20FINAL%20\(Sept-2012\).pdf](https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent%202012-17%20FINAL%20(Sept-2012).pdf)

Education Cabinet Committee report – 12 September 2012 – Primary Commissioning – Tunbridge Wells District

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/g4880/Public%20reports%20pack%2012th-Sep-2012%2010.00%20Education%20Cabinet%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

### **Lead Officer Contact details**

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## Proposal to expand Langton Green Primary School, Tunbridge Wells

### Summary of Written Responses

Printed Consultation Documents distributed: 500  
 Consultation responses received: 268

A summary of the responses received showed that:

	In Favour	Undecided	Opposed
Governors	4		
Staff	11		
Parents	21	2	26
Pupils	128		24
Other	5	3	44
<b>Totals</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>94</b>

#### Comments in favour of the proposal:

- Tunbridge Wells is expanding but not enough state primary schools.
- School has land available to expand and accommodate the growing number of primary school aged children.
- It is only right to open up the brilliant education to more children in the area.
- The good reputation of the school brings in excellent teaching staff and expansion will increase opportunities for staff.
- Langton Green is an outstanding school and I believe it is vital that good schools are able to build upon and share their success to benefit as many children as possible.
- We can share the benefits of an 'Outstanding' school with a wider number of families from Langton and its immediate environs.
- Having twice as many children in a year group will give children the opportunity to develop an even wider circle of friends.
- This represents an opportunity to upgrade certain facilities within the school which would not be dealt with in any other way.
- There is a real educational need for extra places at Langton. Children who live within a short distance should have the right to attend it.
- Capacity at present is inadequate for the number of children in the village.
- Your proposals are excellent and exactly what this village requires for future primary education and the ongoing growth of the village.
- Underlying concern that people within the parish are having increasing difficulties in obtaining places at the school.
- There is and has for sometime been a lack of primary education places for the growing and current number of children in the area.
- I am excited because there will be more activities.
- More learning area! The bigger the better! More space to play in and new friends.
- More children could go to the school who live in the village.
- After achieving Outstanding in Ofsted this is a natural next progression for the school in order to continue the good work.
- It is only right we now open up our brilliant education to more children in Langton Green and surrounding areas.
- The expansion will provide the school with much needed funds for improvement of existing buildings and facilities.

**Comments against the proposal:**

- This would severely impact on the local community, the roads and parking.
- There would need to be many more traffic calming measures as speed is a continuing and worsening problem.
- I fail to see how the current road system can support such an increase in traffic.
- An already congested access problem which can only become more dangerous with double the parents at drop off and pickup times.
- We moved to Langton Green as it was a small community school where all the staff and children know each other which is important to us as our son has a serious medical condition.
- Traffic and parking is a major concern as more spaces will result in more children from neighbouring villages who will drive to school.
- Maintaining standards becomes difficult with additional children/teachers.
- Langton is a superb school, with superb facilities indoor and outdoor. An increase in intake will result in this outstanding status being put at risk.
- Increase in rat-run traffic around local Langton roads.
- Access to residential home behind the school, where ambulance access is required is problematic at drop off and collection times.
- The main Speldhurst Road access to Lampington Row for pupils on foot is dangerous as a main road must be crossed without any crossing aides.
- The village doesn't have the capacity to cope with a larger school, for example when the church is used for school events it is difficult to accommodate all parents/relatives/carers.
- The development work will inevitably impact on the current pupils study, with noise and other distractions.
- Any increase in LGS capacity should be in response purely to an excess of demand in the catchment area – not because of excess demand in Tonbridge Wells overall.
- Expansion would result in higher traffic/parking being a nuisance to residents, dangerous to children and further hindrance for emergency vehicles access.
- The expansion will intensify the traffic problem which is already a toxic combination of cars and children sharing the road.
- Near misses happen daily and emergency vehicles cannot access the elderly residents of Ashurst Place.
- There would need to be some big changes in traffic/parking to make it feasible and work on a day to day basis.
- Vacant places at many other good local schools, Speldhurst, Rusthall, Fordcombe should be utilised.
- My son gets one chance at an education in this part of his life, I don't want him going to school in a building site.

## **Proposal to expand Langton Green Primary School, Tunbridge**

### **Summary of Public Consultation Meeting**

#### **Purpose of the Meeting**

- To explain the proposal to expand Langton Green Primary School
- To give members of the public an opportunity to ask questions and comment
- To listen to views and opinions

#### **Proposal**

Kent County Council is proposing that Langton Green Primary School increase its Year R intake to 60, taking the proposed total capacity of the school from 201 places to 420 places.

A short presentation outlining the proposal for expansion was given by Simon Webb.

Langton Green is an outstanding school so demand for places is high. Feasibility study and survey will be required to plan the new build for the school, allowing flexibility for a creative learning space.

No final decisions will be made until the consultation process is over, so please let the local authority have your views.

#### **Statement from the Headteacher, Judith Lees**

Headteacher has had discussions with governors, staff and some parents regarding the local authority proposals and are broadly supportive of expanding to a 2FE primary school. There will be many challenges and opportunities to consider but school is confident through expertise and support of the local authority and community these can be overcome in a positive way.

The school is heavily oversubscribed and would like to be able to offer places to the local children of Langton Green and see it is an opportunity to improve school for current and future parents. At present there are 27 siblings and school can only offer 3 new places.

Pleased that the proposed expansion is gradual and will take 7 years to complete. This will enable school time to adapt and maintain standards and ethos.

Would like more children to benefit from outstanding curriculum, teaching and learning and look forward to appointing new teachers. The school has capacity to expand in terms of space, leadership and staffing which will mean that staff can be retained for longer as there will be more opportunities for them. Expansion will bring along additional benefits and help to raise standards and learning.

Langton Green is a relatively small school and following the expansion of other schools in Tunbridge Wells could almost be the smallest.

Main concerns are access onto the site and parking but with these proposals comes the opportunity to look at resolving some of these problems.

Look at the proposals with a positive view, it is an exciting time for the school and with the commitment and support of the staff and parents, I am sure we can rise to the challenge and maintain the school ethos and standards.

**Statement from the Chair of Governors, Mark Gamble**

School are looking enthusiastically at this proposal and subject to the feasibility study catering for the needs of the children, parents and local residents, I am sure we can move forward to a positive outcome.

Be assured if the school becomes a 2FE primary school standards will be maintained under the strong leadership of the headteacher and commitment of her staff.

There are concerns but this is a consultation, no feasibility study is available yet so the concerns can be reflected in final plans.

Question	Response
<p>Feel the village character of the school will change, especially if children from the wider community are allowed to attend the school. I chose this school because it had the feel of a village school but agree it is unreasonable that local children are unable to get in.</p>	<p>Major concern is that a lot of children from Langton Green village are unable to get into the school and have to travel to different areas.</p>
<p>Headteacher said this was a consultation, when in actual fact she has not consulted with the parents until this evening.</p>	<p>Langton Green is not a church school but we have endeared values and try to work with the children and parents to create a positive ethos. Can understand why people look to a small school but if the numbers drop, may be forced to look at vertical classes and mixed age groups. School has the capacity to cope with expanding to a 2FE primary school, especially as growth will be gradual.</p>
	<p>It is a case of village envelope versus planning area. Langton Green has a PAN of 30 and due to its popularity it will be over scribed. If more than 30 applications are received the oversubscription criteria kicks in which is:            1<sup>st</sup> LAC            2<sup>nd</sup> Sibling            3<sup>rd</sup> Distance (geographical)</p> <p>School took 40 children a couple of years ago. For Sept 2013 27 children will get in under sibling rule leaving only 3 geographical places which unacceptable, hence the consultation.</p> <p>By putting the PAN up to 60 it allows children from outside the Langton Green area to come to an outstanding school.</p>



<p>Lampington Row is a narrow road so access onto the school site is restricted. We have huge concerns over parking and traffic management during drop off and pick up times.</p>	<p>The local authority understands the concerns of local residents around parking and access and a feasibility study will be undertaken to look into such issues. Separate to that will be a consultation regarding highway and planning issues which will look into trying to improve what is already there.</p>
<p>None of the local residents were informed of this meeting tonight.</p>	<p>As this is an educational consultation with regard to school expansion the local authority are not required statutorily to inform local residents. Local residents will be consulted as part of the planning and highway process.</p>
<p>Can you put your hand on your heart that you do take account of what people say?</p>	<p>The local authority are here to consult on enlarging this school. We are currently going through the process to try and expand 7 schools in Tunbridge Wells, giving parents the opportunity to send their children to local school. Some of these proposals may fail due to the strong feelings of residents, governors and staff but the local authority need as many responses as possible to determine an outcome.</p>
<p>I feel we are being sold this proposal and it is not a balanced point of view as I get the impression the local authority is almost saying this is what is going to happen.</p> <p>I also do not understand the headteacher's point about lots of people coming to live in Langton Green.</p> <p>If a high percentage of parents do not want this can the local authority ignore us? Perhaps we could have a show of hands for and against?</p>	<p>If we all parents were here tonight it would be representative but we cannot be sure that is the case. We also have residents here.</p> <p>I expect the report to the Education Committee to be in favour of the proposals, however, elected members will make the final decision.</p> <p>This is a consultation, it is not a referendum and therefore is worthy of serious consideration.</p>
<p>Will we have an opportunity to look at the feasibility study/plans before the consultation process closes?</p>	<p>I believe there will be an opportunity for parents to view the plans and will encourage the governors hold discussions on this.</p>
<p>You are saying every parent could say 'no' but you still expect the recommendation to be to expand?</p>	<p>The local authority expect a balance to be drawn.</p>
<p>Every parent could say no but you would still expect a recommendation to expand?</p>	<p>We do believe a balanced view has to be drawn, proximity of local school, it is an outstanding school – people will wish to send their children here and the local</p>

	<p>authority wish to make it available to the wider community.</p> <p>In Kent 85% of parents received their first preference and we want to increase that to 95% or higher.</p>
<p>Parent</p> <p>From a village point of view the school will double in size. May I ask where the buildings are going to be sited? Will they be built at ground level or will it necessitate a second storey building?</p>	<p>Simon Webb</p> <p>The feasibility report will identify how the school site can be developed. Dependent upon the report, school buildings could be extended to the boundary lines or go up to a second storey, but impact on local environment will be a consideration.</p> <p>I understand the feasibility report will be available from mid December.</p>
<p>I understand that you are looking at a number of schools in Tunbridge Wells:</p> <p>I feel what you are proposing in Tunbridge Wells is sufficient and demand is not that great to warrant expanding Langton Green.</p>	<p>We are currently undertaking public consultation with 7 schools in the Tunbridge Wells area, of which Langton Green is one.</p> <p>Tunbridge Wells and the neighbouring villages have seen a number of small and medium scale housing developments over the last few years.</p> <p>In addition, there has been inward migration from London and other parts of Kent that have been a contributory factor in the indigenous growth.</p> <p>I consulted with several schools within the Tunbridge Wells district about enlargement.</p>
<p>You have also approached St James' Infant and St James' Junior to go up</p>	<p>Currently we are looking to enlarge:</p> <p>St James Infant to FE  St James Junior to  Pembury to 3FE  Southborough to 3FE  St Marks  Langton Green 2FE  St Matthews</p>
	<p>Bishops Down due to planning constraints/health &amp; safety we are unable to enlarge this school site.</p>
<p>Rusthall St Paul's is not full and Bishops Down is sucking children away from there why aren't you considering expansion here?</p>	<p>With regards to Rusthall St Paul's, it is currently a satisfactory school with a PAN of 50 and at least 45 in each year group, which in comparison with Langton Green,</p>

	which is an outstanding school.
Claremont, I understand was approached but refused to expand.	Claremont is a popular and outstanding school so I approached the HT and governors about permanent enlargement. Initial feasibility showed as site too small KCC would have to completely rebuild, costing in excess of £5m. In the end governors decided it wanted to remain a teaching school.
Under the planning process agreement has been given for a new school on the old hospital site with another new school proposed to go on Hawkenbury site.	<p>Due to lack of developer contributions the local authority were unable to put a school on the old West Kent Hospital site. The Wells Free School proposal has been accepted and a new school is expected to open there in September 2013.</p> <p>Discussions are underway with the planning authority regarding the Hawkenbury site. It is hoped that the local authority will be able to relocate St Peter's Primary School onto this site as its present accommodation is poor.</p>
Feel the parents of Langton Green are unable to get their children into school as a direct consequence of the temporary expansion in 2010. There was no consultation then, so wonder whether there is a legal problem here.	There is no legal issue regarding this. The local authority approached the school about temporarily enlarging because of need for places for children within the village.
With regard to the changes proposed for our school, I am not the only person in this room who is concerned whether the education of our children is going to be protected by such a non-definitive plan.	I work with a number of schools in Tunbridge Wells and see huge benefits to being a larger school. Please do not worry about the identity of this school being lost. I hope most of you do not see us demographically but see the work carried out by my staff and witness the changes in your own children, as it is not about where they go to school.
	We, as a school, have managed challenges in the past and will ensure that the building works do not impact on the education of the children. The children will be safe and their education uninterrupted.
I have every sympathy with parents trying to get their children into the local school and the Parish Council has been working with parents and residents to alleviate some of the parking issues.	

<p>Parish Council is looking to expand some of the grass area for parking and link the pathway into school so more children can walk to school. The Parish Council resources are limited so seek cooperation from KCC to try to address these traffic issues when considering the feasibility plan.</p>	
<p>I am concerned that the consultation period is for 8 weeks which includes the Christmas break.</p>	<p>The consultation period is for 6 working weeks, with a closing date of 14 January 2013. However, the local authority are prepared to keep this open for a couple of days after that.</p>
<p>That the feasibility study not available until mid December, with consultation responses due by 14 January 2013.</p> <p>I question the merits of holding a consultation without the benefit of seeing a feasibility study first.</p>	<p>School will receive the feasibility report by mid December, giving some time to look at it before the end of term.</p> <p>The local authority could have presented a feasibility report here tonight and parents considered it fait accompli.</p>
<p>Can we be assured that funding is available to carry out the proposals being put forward?</p>	<p>As there has been indigenous growth the local authority are able to bid for Basic Need funding to ensure enough provision for the children of Kent. It will be up to the Chair of Governors and Headteacher to determine how that funding spent.</p>
<p>You said the proposals at Bishops Down were rejected on the grounds of health &amp; safety. Was it different at this site?</p> <p>Access is limited on this site also. Ambulances struggle to get through and we have had occasions when children nearly run over whilst using pathway.</p>	<p>Langton Green's school site is large enough to take a 2FE primary school.</p> <p>Bishops Down had ancient woodland and trees overarching site and you cannot build on the boundary. Access was limited as Ryland Drive is very narrow. To provide sufficient access onto the site a circular road, across the football field would have been required and Sports England would not hve permitted this so the proposal could not go ahead.</p>
<p>I accept you need to consult with highways and planning colleagues and we can have a lollipop person but these problems should be resolved before we even consider this proposal.</p>	<p>I can only reiterate that the health &amp; safety of the children is paramount and will be looked at closely.</p>
<p>Will what has been discussed here tonight be accessible to the parents before the end of the consultation period?</p>	<p>At the end of the consultation period a full report will be available.</p>
<p>Feel you are legally required to consult</p>	<p>We are undertaking similar consultations</p>

<p>with residents, especially those in Lampington Row as we are practically neighbours.</p>	<p>across the county and this seems to be a common theme. KCC's policy is that we do not statutorily have to consult with the residents as part of an educational consultation. However, I give you an undertaking there will be a detailed review into how KCC statutorily consults in future.</p>
<p>Feel holding a consultation here this evening is rubbish if there are no feasibility plans for the parents to see. We are being asked to comment on a concept as there are concrete proposals.</p>	<p>We are consulting on a concept. The same process is being rolled out across the county and we will continue to use this format.</p>
<p>The governors at Claremont were opposed to the idea of expansion – I feel the governors of this school are not listening to the parents who are opposing this expansion.</p>	<p>I am listening and weight of opinion is quite clear here tonight but there are also parents in the village who are unable to get their children into this school and future parents that I have to consider.</p>
	<p>We did consult with Claremont and initially they yes but the caveat was funding from local authority.</p> <p>Even if a governing body disagrees, if there categorical need for school places, the local authority can insist on the expansion but this is not how we like to work.</p>
	<p>If a housing development has over 500 units, the Borough Council are required to make provision for a new primary school. Currently in Tunbridge Wells there are proposals for Knights Park and Hawkenbury.</p>
<p>I would like to see the local authority present the feasibility report to parents in December. I did read the Kent Commissioning Plan and would like the opportunity for more discussion.</p>	<p>I will be delighted to come back with a property colleague to talk about the feasibility proposals.</p>
<p>Would ask that the school canvasses the views of the parents as I feel communication is not as good as it could be.</p>	<p>We hope the parents trust the governing body to do the job to the best of our ability. We will consult and hope parents feel their opinions have been sought. An informed decision on behalf of the governors in consultation with the parents.</p>
<p>I live in the village and welcome the proposals to allow my child into the school. I am concerned that as the consultation process ends on 14 January I</p>	<p>The local authority accept the proposals should have been looked at several years ago and will endeavour to be more proactive in future.</p>

<p>have to submit my application for school place by 16 January and feel it's a bit late in the day.</p>	
<p>It was mentioned earlier that the forecasting figures had been inaccurate. What assurances can the local authority give us that they have estimated correctly now?</p>	<p>The method previously used took into account live birth data and predictions indicated a growth in 2010/2011 which we thought was a 'spike'. By 2012 the local authority realised it wasn't a 'spike' but actually growth. Therefore the local authority commissioned a new forecasting method called Edge from Leeds University that has proved so accurate that they are now marketing the package.</p>
<p>I think the local authority is skating over one fundamental problem and that is parking. You heard how the Parish Council is trying to resolve the issue but did not give a definite answer. If you are not prepared to consider the full facts surrounding parking and access how can you work safely and properly?</p>	<p>I can hear what you say but I cannot give any guarantees tonight. The views of the Parish Council and the local residents are taken very seriously and I urge you all to complete a response form.</p> <p>What I haven't heard is how wonderful the school is.</p>
	<p>The local authority is fully supportive of the children of Langton Green and is aware of the geography regarding the site. In Langton Green, however, there is a growing need for school places which we have to try and address as a County Council. I apologise to you if I have given the impression that local resident views do not count. The views of parents, staff, local residents and the young people are very important.</p>
<p>I believe the expansion will create better facilities for the school, however, we must remember that it is a village school and not in the centre of Tunbridge Wells. I just feel if the 2 mile sibling rule increases we could be disadvantaging the children in village again.</p>	<p>It is very rare in any 2FE for siblings not to get into school. St John's in Sevenoaks is a very small urban school but all siblings manage to get a place there.</p>
<p>In the Langton Green area it is very hard to get planning permission. You have embarked on a feasibility study costing a considerable amount of money when it is highly unlikely that planning permission will be granted to allow alteration to the existing access onto school site. How can the local authority justify wasting tax payer's money like that. If you do not take into consideration the access problems onto this site, a child will die.</p>	

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Mr Cooke thanked everyone for coming along and for the questions that had been asked.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.